

History, Culture, Cuisine, Experiences

Odawara

Tokyo's Closest Castle Town



SEE MORE OR ASK A QUESTION



Odawara Castle

THE HISTORY Odawara Castle, the city landmark built in the 15th century, is well worth a visit – not only because it's a stone's throw from Tokyo but also because of its storied history. The fortress has had to be rebuilt and renovated multiple times since the Edo period due to a series of battles, earthquakes and changes in Japan's ruling system. One of Japan's most revered castles, Odawara Castle was once home to the powerful Hojo clan, which ruled a large part of central Japan, including the area now occupied by Tokyo.

THE HIGHLIGHTS Resist the urge to head straight up to the observatory deck (save the 360-degree views over the city and Sagami Bay for last) and take time to explore the many

artifacts, pieces of armor and traditional weapons on display in the museum inside the castle. To really get a feel for what it was like during the Sengoku era, hire samurai armor and kimono (adults ¥500, children ¥300) at the castle's Tokiwagi gate and have your photo taken. Stroll around among the castle's well-preserved walls and gates to feel like you're truly in the samurai era.

THE APP Download the Odawara Castle exhibition guide app for free from the App Store or Google Play and as you tour the exhibits inside the castle, it will provide detailed explanations and an audio guide.

——— The Essential Info ———

6-1 Jonai, Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture (10-minute walk from Odawara Station)
T: 0465-22-3818 | **W:** odawaracastle.com | **Open:** 9am-5pm (last entry 4:30pm)
Castle Tower Tickets: Adults ¥510, elementary and junior high school students ¥200





Ninja and Samurai

THE HISTORY Odawara's history is deeply entwined with the fascinating stories of ninjas and samurai in feudal Japan. Odawara Castle once served as the home of the Hojo clan, which ruled the area for five generations during the Sengoku period and was considered to be the most powerful clan of the Kanto region. This clan was served by the Fuma ninja group, with one of the most famous ninja in Japanese history being Fuma Kotaro.

THE SAMURAI GALLERY The Samurai Gallery displays a selection of genuine samurai armor and swords within the castle grounds. The collection gives visitors the

chance to see and experience craftsmanship and artistry from the past. Feel and learn about this extraordinary part of Japanese history.

THE NINJA MUSEUM In 2019, the historical Rekishi Kenbunkan Museum reopened as an interactive Odawara Castle Ninja Museum. Experience what life was like back in the days of ninja and samurai in the Sengoku theater zone, learn about the ninja skills in the ninja experience zone, and "fight" against enemy ninja in the warfare zone.

— The Essential Info —

The Samurai Gallery and The Ninja Museum - Jonai, Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture
(10-minute walk from Odawara Station)

T: 0465-22-3818 | W: odawaracastle.com | **Open:** 9am - 5pm (last entry 4:30pm)

Samurai Gallery Tickets: Adults ¥200, elementary and junior high school students ¥60
(joint admission passes for the castle's donjon are also available)

Ninja Museum Tickets: Adults ¥310, elementary and junior high school students ¥100



Experiences for All

THE HISTORY Odawara has welcomed travelers and visitors for centuries. This castle town was once located on the famed Tokaido Road that connected Kyoto and Edo — now known as Tokyo. The hospitality of the people and local businesses make this compact city easily accessible and fun to explore day or night.

FOOD AND DRINK Odawara has a host of culinary options to choose from. Situated between the Pacific Ocean and Hakone mountains, this area has a famed fishing port, fertile mountains, and is bathed in the breeze of the ocean and iridescent

rays from the sun. Local gastronomic favorites include kamaboko (cooked surimi), Odawara ramen, sashimi, citrus fruits, plum, and much more.

EXPERIENCES With such a rich culture and history, there is so much to experience in town. The choice to see and feel your own personal Japan is yours. Choose from an exclusive Ninja Experience with a ninja scholar, Zen meditation with a Buddhist monk, create local crafts, join an evening bar crawl, or take in the town on a history walk. The area is compact so making little discoveries on your own is also an amazing option.

Book Experiences in Odawara —————

Visit odawara-guide.com to book unforgettable experiences in Odawara



BOOK EXPERIENCES IN ODAWARA



Culture and Arts

CULTURE The culture of Odawara is closely connected to the castle and nature. There are a number of welcoming events throughout the year that celebrate our connection to the past. Popular local foods highlight our profound relationship with the sea and land while reflecting the tastes of the season. Odawara has also attracted many literary figures and artisans, illustrated by the recent addition of the acclaimed Enoura Observatory established by leading contemporary artist Hiroshi Sugimoto as “a forum for disseminating art and culture both within Japan and to the world.”

THE SEASONS The changing of the seasons is easily seen and felt in Japan. Odawara has thousands of sakura cherry blossom trees. The area

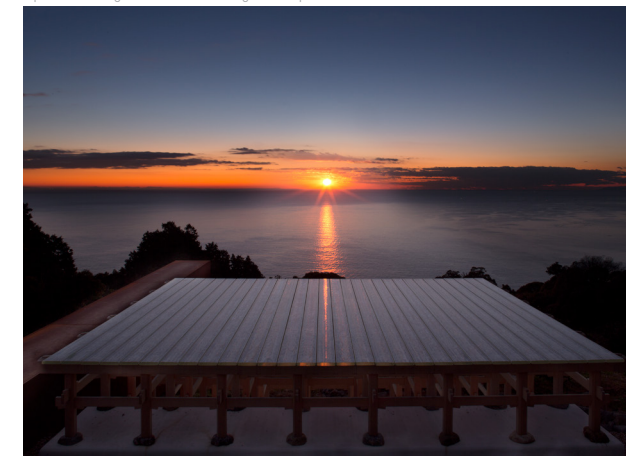
around the castle is especially known for the burst of pink blossoms in spring. Winter is highlighted by a white-capped Mt. Fuji and the famed Hakone Ekiden Collegiate Race that runs through town. Summer is a time for sampling shaved ice and a trip to the beach before ushering in the changing colors of fall.

FESTIVALS Odawara plays host to many food festivals and celebrations of our samurai past during the year. Among the annual celebrations you can witness displays of horseback archery, samurai parades, blossoming plum trees, fish market events, or enjoy one of the many food festivals in and around the castle grounds.

———— The Essential Info ————

Enoura Observatory - 362-1 Enoura, Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture
(free shuttle bus from Nebukawa Station or catch a taxi from Manazuru Station)
T: 0465-42-9170 | **W:** odawara-af.com/en/enoura | **Open:** 10am-1pm, 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Tickets: ¥3,300, advance reservation required online as admission is limited for each time slot

Optical Glass Stage and Winter Solstice Light-Worship Tunnel @ Odawara Art Foundation



A Tradition of Hospitality



If exploring nature, culture, history and cuisine sounds like your perfect kind of get-away, then spending a couple of days in the picturesque port city of Odawara should make it to the top of your must-do-in-Japan list. Located in the Ashigara Plains of Kanagawa Prefecture, the city is surrounded by breathtaking scenery, including the Hakone Mountains to the north and west, Sagami Bay to the south, and the Sakawa River to the east. With a population of just under 200,000, Odawara offers a bit of breathing space, especially for those visiting from packed Tokyo. It only takes about 30 minutes on the shinkansen and just over one hour on a local train to get there from Tokyo Station, and it makes a great stopover for those traveling on to Hakone and beyond.



CONVENIENT AND ACCESSIBLE

Odawara is located between the legendary hot spring mountains of Hakone and the vast Pacific Ocean. We are also close to the beautiful and iconic Mt. Fuji. Since ancient times Odawara has hosted travelers as they made their way between Edo (modern-day Tokyo) and Kyoto during the time of the samurai. The town is convenient to visit and even easier to explore. The rich history and culture is a diverse and accessible contrast to the city of Tokyo, offering special experiences, wonderful food, and a lively small city to explore.

PLACES TO STAY

Odawara has catered to visitors for centuries and has a diverse range of accommodation. With new additions to the choices available in town, there are now many options for overnight guests. Choose from the Hilton Odawara Resort & Spa, the newly opened Tenseien Station Hotel Odawara attached to Odawara Station, or one of the many reasonably priced hotel and guesthouses options.

LOCATION

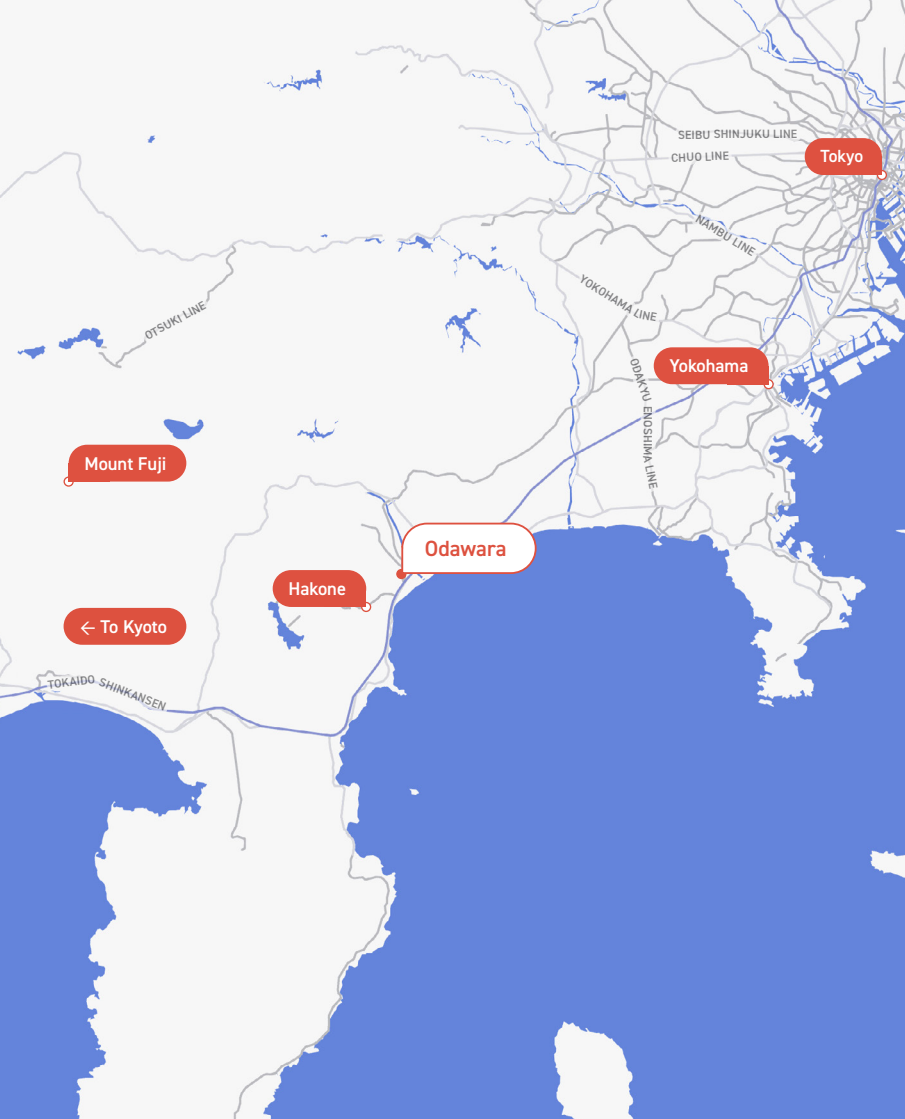
Odawara is a short train ride from Tokyo. The city is located between Tokyo and Kyoto and is a stop on the Tokaido Shinkansen line. Odawara is also the main transportation hub for visits to the Hakone area. Odawara is easy to get to, easy to explore, and welcoming to all visitors. Odawara is a place that fits and enriches any schedule, plan, and visit to Japan.



—— The Essential Info ——

For local tourist information, Odawara Visitor Center
1-7-50, Hon-cho, Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture
(10-minute walk from Odawara Station)

T: 0465-46-8403 | W: odawara-visit.com | Open: 9am-5pm



How to Get to Odawara

Approximate Travel Times

By Train

Tokaido/Sanyo Shinkansen 33min from Tokyo Station

Tokaido Line (Rapid) 1h 15min from Tokyo Station
55min from Yokohama Station

Odakyu Romance Car 59min from Shinjuku Station

Hakone Tozan Line 15min from Hakone Yumoto Station

By Car

From the Tomei Expressway, take the Odawara-East exit onto Odawara-Atsugi Road. 1 hour from Tokyo



Contact

Odawara Tourism Association

W: odawara-guide.com

M: odawara@odawara-kankou.com

